Applicant : Bhatt, et al.
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Attorney's Docket No.: 13906-119001 / 2003P00394 US

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REMARKS

The Office Action that was mailed on August 16, 2006 rejected all pending claims 1-18.
Applicants have amended claims 1 and 10, and have added new claims 19-24. As such, claims
1-24 are pending. The amendments add no new matter. Applicants submit that all pending
claims 1-24 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request reconsideration in view of
the amendments and of the following remarks.

Claim Amendments

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 10 to more particularly define the subject matter
sought to be patented. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite providing, in a first
application, a list view of data objects, the list view displaying an object field and an attribute for
at least one of the data objects. Claim 1 has also been amended to clarify that the external
reporting application is launched after the output file is generated. Claim 10 has been amended
in similar fashion. The amendments add no new matter. Support for the amendments can be
found throughout Applicants' specification as originally filed, for example at page 11, lines 5-12;
at page 15, line 13 to page 16, line 3; and at Figures 3, 4, 5 and 8.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 4-6, 10 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being
anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,631,497 (Jamshidi). Of these, claims 1 and 10 are independent.
Claims 4-6 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and claims 13-15 depend, either
directly or indirectly, from claim 10.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a method of generating an electronic report from a list
view displaying data objects that each comprise a plurality of fields and corresponding attributes
for the fields. The method includes providing, in a first application, a list view of data objects.
The list view displays an object field and an attribute for at least one of the data objects. The
method also includes receiving a user selection of at least one object field. The method further

includes generating an output file that an external reporting application can use to generate a tabulated report, the tabulated report to include the attributes corresponding to the selected at least one object field. The method further includes launching, after generating the output file, the external reporting application and generating the tabulated report using the launched external reporting application, the tabulated report comprising the attributes corresponding to the selected at least one object field.

Jamshidi relates to spreadsheet cell-data source binding. (Title; Col. 3, lines 18-19). A user uses a model viewer component to create a model and imports data sources into the model by selecting and dragging them into the model. (Col. 3, lines 55-61). Next, the user creates one or more views of the model using a virtual object controller. (Col. 3, line 66 to Col. 4, line 1). The user then binds an element of a model view to an individual cell on an Excel spreadsheet that is open for editing; this is done using a link manager component by dragging an element of the view and dropping it on a specific individual cell in the spreadsheet. (Col. 4, lines 14-21).

Jamshidi does not anticipate or render obvious the subject matter set forth in Applicants' claim 1. In particular, Jamshidi does not disclose or suggest a method that includes, as recited in Applicants' claim 1, providing a specific type of list view, receiving a user selection of one or more object fields of the list view, generating an output file to later create a report, and then launching an external reporting application and generating the report. In contrast, Jamshidi discloses a very different type of reporting technique, as described below.

Jamshidi is very different from the claim 1 subject matter for several reasons. First, Jamshidi does not involve the creation of a report using a list view of the type specified in Applicants' claim 1, namely, a list view of data objects that displays an object field and an attribute for at least one of the data objects. This is shown and described, for example, in connection with Fig. 3 of the present application, which illustrates a listing of data objects. In contrast, Jamshidi discloses a link manager user interface where models and associated views are displayed in a tree structure. (Col. 7, lines 20-23; Figure 4). A top level tree node represents the model, while child nodes represent the views. (Col. 7, lines 21-23). This tree structure is entirely different from the list view of data objects in claim 1. As described in further detail below, one

advantage of the claimed list view is that the display of object fields and attributes provides the user with a preview of the data that is to be included in the tabulated report.

Second, Jamshidi does not involve the selection of object fields from the list view, and from that generating an output file that is used to later create a report. The Office Action cited Jamshidi column 7, lines 20-33 and 33-61 as disclosing these aspects of the claim. (Office Action, page 3). Applicants disagree. As mentioned, Jamshidi does not involve a list view of the type recited in Applicants' claim 1, where a user is able to view object fields and attributes for displayed data objects. Users of the Jamshidi system select an element of a view from the link manager tree. (Col. 7, lines 26-27). Also, not only must they select an element from the tree, they must drag and drop it into a particular cell in the Excel spreadsheet, which involves an added level of complexity. Regarding output file generation, the portion of Jamshidi cited by the Office Action discloses that first, a spreadsheet worksheet is read and all binding information is extracted. (Col. 7, lines 34-35). This occurs after a user has already dragged and dropped an element into a cell of the spreadsheet, since extracted information includes cell name. (Col. 7, line 38). This is completely different than the output file generation in Applicants' claim 1, which does not rely on interaction with a presently active external reporting application.

Third, Jamshidi does not involve the launching, after the creation of the output file, of an external reporting application and generating the report. While Jamshidi discloses Microsoft Excel and dragging and dropping a tree element into an individual cell in an Excel spreadsheet, Microsoft Excel is constantly running throughout the processes disclosed by Jamshidi. Indeed, Jamshidi does not disclose or suggest launching Excel or any external reporting application at all, and certainly does not disclose or suggest launching an external reporting application after creation of an output file that can be used by an external reporting application. As seen in figures 3 and 4 of Jamshidi, Excel is open and running prior to any of the user selections described in Jamshidi. In fact, Jamshidi describes that the three controllers at the heart of his invention are coded in Visual Basic Application and are embedded within Excel. (Col. 6, lines 49-55). Thus, the operation of the Jamshidi controllers is completely dependent upon Excel having been previously launched and presently active. The Office Action cited this section of

Jamshidi in contending that Jamshidi discloses a user interface that is seamlessly integrated with Microsoft Excel. (Office Action page 4). Applicants agree that the controllers of Jamshidi are integrated with Excel. They are so completely integrated, in fact, that they are embedded within Excel, thereby necessitating that Excel be running for their sustained operation, and making their operation prior to Excel being launched impossible.

Neither does Jamshidi render these aspects of Applicants' claim 1 obvious. For example, there are advantages to the method of Applicants' claim 1 that are not contemplated in Jamshidi. A user of the method described in Applicants' claim 1 is able to view a specific type of list view of data objects that contains object fields and attributes, and may initiate creation of a report in an external reporting application with the benefit of seeing actual data (the attributes) associated with the data objects. Viewing this information may help the user decide which data is appropriate for inclusion in the report to be generated, and may thus guide user selection of the corresponding object fields. A user of the Jamshidi system, in contrast, is not able to view such pre-report information presentation, as the tree structures disclosed in Jamshidi fail to display the information present in the list view of Applicants' claim 1.

Also, a user of the method of Applicants' claim 1 may focus attention on the list view when deciding appropriate content for the report to be later generated, without being burdened by concurrent presentation of the external reporting application or required interaction steps with the external reporting application. As such, the user may easily view information in the list view and select desired object fields in the first application, after which an output file is created, an external reporting application is launched, and the report is generated, all without further user involvement. (See Applicants' specification as originally filed at page 16, lines 1-3).

Additionally, flexibility is maintained because Applicants' first application is not limited by the external reporting application in the same manner that Jamshidi's controllers are limited by Microsoft Excel. For example, if a problem exists with the external reporting application it will not affect the generation of the output file in Applicants' claim 1, since the external reporting application is not running because it has yet to be launched at the time of output file generation. In contrast, any problem with Excel is likely to hinder the processes of Jamshidi due

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to the tight integration between the Jamshidi controllers and Excel throughout execution of the processes disclosed by Jamshidi. Further highlighting the differences between the methods is the way in which the selected entity is eventually presented by the reporting application. Jamshidi discloses that each spreadsheet cell is viewed as an independent GUl control object that maintains its own specific behavior, (Col. 6, lines 63-65), which specific cell behavior is affected by dragging and dropping the element into the cell. In contrast, a user selection of an object field will typically affect multiple report cells in a report generated by the external reporting tool of Applicants' claim 1.

Thus, claim 1 defines material that is patentable over Jamshidi, as do dependent claims 4-6. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully ask that the Office withdraw the anticipation rejections to these claims.

Claim 10 is directed to a computer-readable medium with program instructions stored thereon that, when executed, perform the method of claim 1. Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1, claim 10 defines subject matter that is patentable over Jamshidi, as do dependent claims 13-15. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully ask that the Office withdraw the anticipation rejections to these claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected claims 2-3, 7-9, 11-12 and16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jamshidi in view various cited references, including U.S. Patent No. 5,892, 909 (Grasso), U.S. Patent No. 6,631,497 (Bowman-Amuah), and U.S. Publication No. US 2004/0019560 (Evans). Claims 2-3 and 7-9 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1, and claims 11-12 and16-18 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 10. For the reasons discussed above, Applicants' submit that independent claims 1 and 10 each define subject matter that is patentable over Jamshidi, as do dependent claims 2-3, 7-9, 11-12 and16-18. While Applicants' do not concede that the cited references may be properly combined either with Jamshidi or with each other, none of the cited references, either alone or in combination, cure the deficiencies of Jamshidi. As such, Applicants submit

that independent claims 1 and 10 each define subject matter that is patentable over Jamshidi in view of the cited references, as do claims 2-3, 7-9, 11-12 and 16-18. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully ask that the Office withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of claims 2-3, 7-9, 11-12 and 16-18.

New Claims

Applicants have added new dependent claims 19-24. These claims add no new matter. Support for the claims can be found throughout Applicants' specification as originally filed, for example at page 11, lines 5-12; at page 12, lines 3-21; at page 15, lines 1-12; at page 16, lines 21-29; and at Figures 3, 4 and 5.

Claims 19-21 depend from independent claim 1, and claims 22-24 depend from independent claim 10. For the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 10 each define subject matter that is patentable over Jamshidi and the other cited references, either alone or in combination. Thus, claims 19-24 also define subject matter that is patentable over Jamshidi and the other cited references. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Office issue a notice of allowance for claims 19-24.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that claims 1-24 are in condition for allowance, and request that the Office issue a notice of allowance.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.
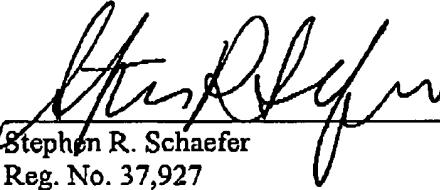
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Please apply $200 for the excess claims fee, and any other charges or credits, to Deposit Account 06 1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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